

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 H-02

SSM-05 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /054 R

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A/

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 16, 1976:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 16,
1976:

Q. THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER, "MA'ARIV" IS SAYING TODAY THAT
THE U.S.S.R. HAS WARNED THE U.S. IN A STIFF NOTE, THAT IT
WOULD NOT SIT IDLY BY IF THE NAVAL BLOCKADE AGAINST
SUPPLYING FOOD AND OTHER GOODS TO LEFT WING FORCES IN
LEBANON WERE TO CONTINUE. IT'S A RATHER VAGUE STORY ON
ITS OWN SOURCE.

CAN YOU -- HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULARLY?
HAS THE U.S. RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE SOVIET UNION?

A. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON THAT. I WAS NOT AWARE OF
THE REPORT. I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. WOULD YOU?

A. YES.
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Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, WE ASKED YOU LAST WEEK IF YOU
COULD CLARIFY SOME AMBIGUITY ABOUT THE \$10 BILLION IN
ARMS SALES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN -- HAVE BEEN PROJECTED TO
IRAN IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS AND WHETHER THE \$10
BILLION IN ORDERS OVER THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS HAVE
BEEN INCLUDED. YOU POSTED AN ANSWER WHICH IS NOT
REALLY RESPONSIVE TO THE --

A. LET ME TRY TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE CLARIFICATION. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER IT WILL BE A CLARIFICATION OR SIMPLY A RESTATEMENT OF WHAT YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW.

I THINK ON THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF U.S. AND IRANIAN RELATIONS -- THIS IS AS PREAMBLE -- YOU OUGHT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON TWO OCCASIONS IN TEHRAN: THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AT THE DINNER ON AUGUST 6 IN WHICH HE TOOK PAINS TO SPELL OUT THE QUESTION OF THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE POLICIES OF IRAN BEING PARALLEL AND MUTUALLY REINFORCING; AND THEN THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AFTER THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE U.S.-IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON AUGUST 7.

NOW, WITH REGARD TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO IRAN AND ITS RESULTS, I THINK SOME PERSPECTIVE MAY BE NEEDED.

ON THE QUESTION OF SPECIFIC ARMS SALES TO IRAN, NOTHING WAS DECIDED DURING THE TEHRAN VISIT. THE ISSUE OF ARMS SALES--ARMS TRANSACTIONS--WAS NOT THE PRINCIPLE SUBJECT DISCUSSED. WHAT DID EMERGE FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WAS A PROJECTION, AND I THINK THE SECRETARY AND MINISTER ANSARY WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO STRESS THAT THIS WAS A PROJECTION, OF APPROXIMATELY \$40 BILLION FOR U.S.-IRANIAN TRADE DURING THE PERIOD 1975 TO 1980. AND THIS IS A SIX-YEAR PERIOD.

THE SECRETARY, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION -- AND THIS GETS DOWN TO YOUR SPECIFIC POINT -- IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THE SECRETARY ALSO OBSERVED THAT U.S. ARMS SALES DURING THAT SIX-YEAR PERIOD, AT CURRENT LEVELS

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AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT PLANNING, COULD ADD ANOTHER \$10 BILLION TO THE \$40 BILLION FIGURE-

THIS OBSERVATION WAS IN NO SENSE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANYTHING NEW OR OF AN AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ARMS SYSTEMS. IT WAS A REASONABLE PROJECTION, JUST AS WAS THE \$40 BILLION FIGURE FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS ON NON-

ARMS-RELATED ITEMS.

NOW, IF YOU WILL READ OUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WHICH WE POSTED THURSDAY EVENING, I BELIEVE, ON THE QUESTION POSED --

Q. FRIDAY.

A. --FRIDAY -- I'M SORRY -- BY SCOTT SULLIVAN, I THINK OUR ANSWER PERHAPS MAKES MORE SENSE IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. WELL, THE POINT AT ISSUE IS THAT THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL REPORT MADE THE POINT THAT A TOTAL OF \$10 BILLION IN ORDERS HAS BEEN RUNG UP OVER PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS WAS CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING BEEN OUT OF CONTROL CERTAINLY DURING THE YEARS '74 AND '75, AND IF WE HAVE THE FIGURE OF \$10 BILLION THROWN OUT AS A KIND OF GENERAL RUBRIC FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS WITHOUT IT BEING CLARIFIED WHETHER THIS PROJECTION IS BASED ON THE PAST RECORD AND, THEREFORE, REFERS TO ANOTHER \$10 BILLION IN NEW ORDERS, OR WHETHER IT IS MERELY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE DELIVERY OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS IS NOW GOING TO START TAKING PLACE IN EARNEST, YOU AREN'T REALLY ANSWERING THE QUESTION OR CLARIFYING THE AMBIGUITY. YOU ARE MERELY REPEATING THE AMBIGUITY.

A. I AM TRYING NOT TO BE AMBIGUOUS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FIGURE USED BY THE SECRETARY OF \$10 BILLION, HIS PROJECTION OF THE CURRENT LEVEL, WHICH IS SOMEWHERE AROUND ONE POINT SEVEN TIMES SIX YEARS, WHICH WOULD PUT YOU IN THE RANGE OF \$10 BILLION PLUS. AND I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO.

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Q. ONE POINT SEVEN REFERS TO DELIVERIES OR NEW ORDERS?

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU WHETHER IT IS DELIVERY OR NEW ORDERS. IT IS A QUESTION OF THE VOLUME OF SALE, BECAUSE THESE THINGS, AS YOU WELL KNOW, A WEAPONS SYSTEM LIKE AN AIRCRAFT OR -- WELL, AN AIRCRAFT IS BEST -- OR DELIVERY OF A NAVAL VESSEL TAKES PLACE OVER A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME, AND WHETHER IT FALLS IN ONE YEAR OR THE NEXT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PINPOINT. IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU ARE TAKING THE SIGNING OF THE NAME OR DELIVERY OF THE FIRST ITEM OR CONCLUSION OF THE ENTIRE DELIVERY.

SO THE SECRETARY WAS TRYING TO GIVE A SENSE OF THE VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THAT IS THE WAY YOU SHOULD READ IT. KISSINGER

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